

Urban District Council, Barnard Castle.

Medical Officer's Annual Report (ordinary),

1921.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the above year.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	575
Population	...	...	...	...	...	4,737
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,050
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	1,075
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£19,127
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£76

I am glad to report that the health of the Town has been satisfactory, as the Death Rate is low and the Birth Rate is high. More especially with respect to Infectious Disease, the Town has been singularly clear, considering that the County has suffered from an epidemic of Scarlet Fever. 46 cases have been notified altogether, but of these only 15 cases occurred in the Town itself (31 of the cases were notified from the North Eastern County School) and treated by the School Authorities in their own Hospital and only in 11 cases was it necessary to remove the patients to Hospital.

No case of Diphtheria has occurred. 11 cases of Pneumonia were notified which, although over the average, were accounted for by the severity of the weather, and a comparatively mild epidemic of Influenza during the last month of the year.

It is a matter for regret that the Housing Scheme had to be abandoned, as very little action, if any, can be taken to remove cases of overcrowding or close and demolish unfit dwellings, but I am pleased to report that, through local enterprise, 5 Houses are being erected, 4 of which are nearing completion, and I trust such local action may be encouraged as far as is possible.

During Health Week, Pulpit references were made and special clinics were given by the School Teachers. A lecture was given on the Human frame (with lantern illustrations) by the Medical Officer of Health, the whole effort no doubt aroused the public interest and was much appreciated.

2.—WATER SUPPLY.—The quality of the water supplied to the Town is satisfactory (see Analyses Report for 1920), and its quantity fairly constant and the supply sufficient although, as a precautionary measure, the supply was shut off at nights for a fortnight in the month of August in consequence of drought.

The work of relaying portions of the Gravitating Main with cast iron pipes, from the Spring Head to the Reservoir, should be continued.

3.—RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The foreshore of the River is polluted by certain Householders, adjacent to the River, disposing of their domestic refuse by throwing it into the River. Warning notices have been given, and if disregarded a prosecution might well prevent this pernicious practice.

4.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—No complaint has been received as to the condition of the Effluent from the Sewage Farm, but I recommend that the scheme prepared some time ago to enlarge the Outfall Works should be carried out before any new system of Sewers are laid down. With respect to the Sewers generally I am entirely in agreement with the recent comprehensive and able Report of your Surveyor only recently laid before you in Council.

5.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSE REFUSE.—In regard to this matter, I am still strongly of opinion that the system of Privy Ashpits and Pan Closets is insanitary and that the Council should continue to press for the conversion of all Privy Ashpits and Pan Closets into Water Closets (see Monthly Report of July). Also that Insanitary Wood Boxes be done away with and Galvanised Bins with Covers be substituted.

I am also of opinion that the practice of setting out House Refuse on the Street Kerbs is an objectionable nuisance, especially in those cases when it is put out the night prior to its removal. Arrangements should be made, if possible, for the Refuse to be called for by the Scavengers.

6.—VITAL STATISTICS: 1920-1921.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths in District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Non-residents Registered.	Residents Not Registered.	Under One Year.		At All Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1920	5061	...	83	16.39	58	11.46	8	3	9	108.43	53	10.47
1921	4737	94	92	19.42	69	14.56	5	4	7	85.10	68	14.35

CAUSES OF DEATHS REGISTERED DURING 1921.

All Ages, 73. 34 Males: 39 Females.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 12 Months	Under Years										65 and over	TOTAL
		1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	55	
Uncertified (Cancer) ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Sclerosis Cerebri (old age)...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Cerebral Apoplexy ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Cerebral Meningitis ...	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebral Abscess ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	6
Cancer ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	9
Heart Disease ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	11
Tuberculosis of Lungs ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	-	7
Tuberculosis of Glands ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nephritis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
Bronchitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Gastritis ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gastric Ulcer ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Marasmus ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Premature Birth ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Enteritis ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Syphilis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Diabetes ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Mania ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Paralysis of Insane ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Inquest (accident by steam roller)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals ...	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	7	8	73

Deaths under 12 months, 8 (one "out") = 7. Males, 4; Females, 3. Rate per 1,000 births, 85.10.

6.—BIRTHS REGISTERED DURING 1921.

Births {		Males.		Females.	
Births {	Legitimate	-	-	52	36
	Illegitimate	-	-	2	4
				54	40

Total, 94 : Non-resident 2, leaving a total of 92 and a rate per 1,000 of 19.42.

Number of Women dying in, or consequence of Child-birth, from Sepsis, Nil; Other Causes, Nil.

No Deaths were notified from Measles, Whooping Cough, or Diarrhoea, and no unusual or excessive Mortality occurred during the year, which received or required comment.

7.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1921.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	46	42	Nil
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	Recovered
Pneumonia ...	11	2	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	Recovered
Tuberculosis :			
Pulmonary { M. ...	10	—	3
F. ...	5	—	1
Non-Pulmonary { M. ...	Nil	—	—
F. ...	Nil	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Treated at Home.	Vision Unimpaired.

I am of opinion that many cases of Tuberculosis, more particularly the Non-Pulmonary forms are not notified. Out of the Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis registered during the year, viz., 7 in number, 5 had been notified; 2 were not notified, one, a Woman, being a Resident who died away in an Institution and was accepted by me from the County Medical Officer, and one of a Woman, qualified as a Resident who had come into the Town.

8.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.—There were no special cases of Sickness or Invalidity noteworthy in the District during the year.

9.—NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, &c.

There is a local Nursing Association, consisting of a Voluntary Ladies' Committee. A qualified District Nurse is provided, who carries out the work of visiting and nursing any case requiring attention. The public can have her services on payment of a nominal fee. The County Council assist the Association by annual grants towards Health Visiting and Midwifery. The ordinary expenses are met by the Association.

MIDWIVES.—There is only one practising Midwife, namely the District Nurse who is qualified as such, and acts under the authority of the Nursing Association.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—Fortnightly consultations are held at which the Medical Officer of Health (who acts as Medical Officer to the Centre) and the District Nurse, assisted by Lady Members of the Committee of the Nursing Association, attend. Advice is given to both Mothers and Children, and in neccessitous cases either pre-natal or post-natal, milk is provided (on the Certificate of the Medical Officer) by the County Council. Part of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and District Nurse are paid by the Ministry of Health as Officials under the Maternity and Child Welfare Movement.

There are no Day Nurseries or School Clinics.

Tuberculosis cases, where necessary, are referred to the County Medical Authorities (centred in Darlington) and treated in Sanatoria when suitable.

Veneral Diseases are also referred to the County Medical Authorities when required.

HOSPITALS.—There are no special Hospitals for Tuberculosis-Maternity or Children in the District.

There is one Fever Hospital with a special detached building for Smallpox cases. It is situated in the Country half-a-mile outside the boundary of the Urban Area. It is isolated, in its own ground, accommodates up to 24 Children or 14 Adults, but is mainly confined to cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. The special building for Smallpox cases would accommodate 6 Adults if necessary. The expenses are met by the Urban Council, occasionally assisted by charges made in cases of Patients able to pay towards their treatment and upkeep.

The Workhouse Hospital is the only Institution for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES consist of a properly built van for removal of Infectious cases, and a Hand Ambulance, provided by public subscription, for non-infectious and accident cases where necessary.

10.—LABORATORY WORK.—All pathological and bacteriological examinations and all sera and vaccines and Diphtheria Anti-toxin are attended to and supplied by the Medical Officer of Health, where necessary or required.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—Public Health Act, 1907 ; Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 ; Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk-shops Order, 1885 ; Bye-laws under Public Health Act, 1875.

11.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES REPORT, which summarises the work done by his department, and includes many visits and inspections by myself, in conjunction with the Inspector, with respect to infectious diseases, dairies, cowsheds and other cases occurring under the Public Health Acts.

					Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.		Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.		Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—Foul Conditions ...					—	...	1	...	1
" " Structural Defects					1	...	19	...	14
Lodging-houses	...	...	...	...	1	...	—	..	1
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	...	—	...	19	...	11
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Waterclosets	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
House Drainage—Defective Traps	...	...	...	...	5	...	—	...	4
" —Other Faults	...	...	...	...	19	...	—	...	19
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	10	...	32	...	41
Pigsties	...	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	3
Workshops	...	...	...	...	—	...	2	...	2
Totals	...	...	...	...	44		76		102

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed, 1; Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease, 22; Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease, 5.

GENERAL.—Number of New Houses erected during the year, nil (4 nearing completion and one in course of erection); Ashpit-prives converted into Water-closets, 9; Ash-closets converted into Water-closets, 5; Total number of Water-closets in District, 861; Total number of Ash-closets in District, 53; Total number of Ashpit-prives in District, 63 (census taken July, 1921, reveals previous returns to be incorrect).

12.—FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—During the year 1 Factory and 1 Workshop have been closed, and 2 new Workshops added to the Register. Complaiuts, referring to 3 Workshops, from H.M. Factory Inspector have been attended to and remedied.

13.—COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.—One Common Lodging-house has been closed at the request of the occupier. One at 23, Bridgegate, is kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

14.—DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.—The Milk Supply is good. Three applications for Registration have been approved. I must express my satisfaction that the delivery of Milk in the town has been in some cases immeasurably improved, as the use of sterilized bottles, without doubt, ensures the delivery of a cleaner and healthier milk supply.

15.—SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are 7 Licensed Slaughter-houses in the district. I have to call the attention of the Council to the fact that the manure pits for the reception and storage of offal and other refuse are not in accordance with Bye-law 15, which requires proper galvanised bins with covers to be provided for the reception and speedy removal of this refuse after slaughtering.

16.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.—The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer. He also acts as Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare movement. Grants are made to his salary for both appointments by the Ministry of Health.

Inspector of Nuisances and Surveyor is a whole time Officer. Half of his salary as Inspector is paid by the Urban Council, and half by the County Council.

The District Nurse is a part-time Officer. She is a Queen's Nurse, acts as Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse, and holds a special Certificate for Midwifery and is a health visitor, acting under the County Council.

17.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—(a) Total	...	...	...	nil
(b) As part of municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	nil

I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

<i>Inspection.</i> —(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	54
2. Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 (as per last Annual Report)	...	...	...	15
3. Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	3
4. Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	11

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	7
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	6
2. Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—				
(a) by owners	...	...	...	nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	nil
3. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners or intention to close	...	...	...	nil
(1, 2 and 3) Dealt with principally under the Public Health Acts.				

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	71
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—				
(a) by owners	...	...	...	52
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	nil

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	3
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made...	...	...	...	3
3. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	nil
4. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	nil
5. Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	nil

18.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—I have much satisfaction in reporting that still greater progress has been made in this work. During the year 490 Infants were in attendance. The amount of dried milk sold was 196 lbs. Wool garments supplied in 40 cases. Virol, Cod Liver Oil and dressings amounted to £2 11s. 3d. and patterns given away were 12 in number. This shows a great increase on last year's report, and I feel confident that the Council and the public will continue their support, to what may well be considered one of the most important movements as regards expectant and nursing mothers and the proper feeding and bringing up of infants.

The District Nurse also gives advice and instructions to expectant and nursing mothers, and as to the proper feeding of infants, etc., at meetings of the Maternity and Child Welfare. Her salary is paid by the Nursing Association, and grants from the Urban and County Councils through the Ministry of Health.

19.—TUBERCULOSIS.—15 cases were notified during the year. All were cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis: 10 men and boys from 5 to 52 years-old, and 5 women and girls from 13 to 42 years old, one girl of 13 being notified by the School Medical Officer.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited and advised as to the necessity for disinfection and paramount need of cleanliness and fresh air.

All cases come under the supervision of the County Medical Officer, and when required are referred to the County Authorities at the Dispensary in Darlington. If suitable, they are removed to a Sanatorium for special treatment. Weekly returns of all cases notified are sent to the Ministry of Health and the County Medical Officer.

7 Deaths were registered during the year from Tuberculosis of the Lungs, 4 Men from 21 to 52 years-old, 3 Women from 21 to 54 years-old. This gives a rate of 1·47 per 1,000 of the estimated population at 4,737.

20.—VITAL STATISTICS—SUMMARY.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths registered during the year was 69. Of these 5 were of non-residents registered, 4 were of residents not registered, thus giving a total of 68 and a rate of 14·35 per 1,000 of the estimated 4,737.

BIRTHS.—The total number of births registered during the year was 94, but 2 are to be registered as out, thus giving a total of 92 and a rate of 19·42 per 1,000 of the estimated 4,737.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—8 deaths were registered during the year of infants under 12 months. One is to be regarded as "out" thus giving a total of 7, and a rate 1·47 per 1,000 of the estimated 4,737.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES H. WELFORD,

March, 1922.

Medical Officer of Health.